

Executive Registry

76-5184

December 6, 1976

Personal - for you only.

GB

Dear Betty,

Just a quickie to thank you for "setting the record straight" after that lousy Novak column. The President-elect did authorize a statement setting the record straight and the wire services picked it up and reported it, but it didn't get much local ink. I do appreciate the remarks in your column on December 1st. The story was "for the birds," and you were neat to print that. Gosh, we're going to miss you and George.

Sincerely,

*GB*

George Bush

Mrs. Betty Beale  
The Washington Star  
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(EXECUTIVE SECRET)

*White House / Transition*

DEC 18 1976

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1 DECEMBER 1976

The beginning of the end. Cabinet wives have given their last luncheon for Betty Ford and they presented her with a silver picture frame with their autographs engraved around it. Twelve of them gathered at Carol Simon's house in McLean. All spouses were there except Rod Hills. Maybe he was afraid of cramping the girls' style. . . . The whole Cabinet will give President and Mrs. Ford a farewell dinner at the F Street Club on Jan. 5.

The story that George Bush resigned as head of the CIA after talking

### Betty Beale

with President-elect Carter because Carter wasn't asking him to stay on — is for the birds. Bush didn't even see Carter until Nov. 19 and it was three days earlier that Barbara Bush told close friends at a luncheon at Kate Levi's house that her husband had resigned. And it wasn't one of those automatic resignations expected with an incoming president either. He was definitely quitting, she said, indicating that the decision was firm and fixed regardless.

Where will the Bushs' go? That hasn't been decided since his next job will have bearing on that. They both "adored Houston," says Barbara, who's had 27 different homes in 17 different cities since they were married. She will touch on some of those places and assignments in her speech to the Smith College Club of Washington Jan. 11, but mostly it will be about her experiences as wife of our ambassador to the Peoples Republic of China. To get everyone in the mood the luncheon will be held at Trudie Ball's Empress Restaurant.

note  
Betty